1654. [*Transferred to the 2nd December, 1987*].

Assistance for Drought Relief from U.S A

1655. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the assistance for drought relief promised by the Government of United States during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to that country;

(b) what is the quantum and conditions of such aid; and

(c) what quantum of foreign exchange will be saved on account of this aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B K GADHVI): (a) to (c) Official level discussions are going on to finalise the details of the offer of assistance received from the US Government for our drought relief programme. Commodities likely to be covered under the assistance and their quantum and the value of the assistance in foreign exchange are yet to be finalised.

New initiatives for peace and normalcy in Punjab

1656. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new initiatives have been taken to bring about peace and normalcy in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether any consultations have been started to implement the Punjab Accord, and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Government of Punjab have undertaken a campaign to involve people in the fight against terrorism and restoration of peace and law and order in the State Village peace and Development Committees have been formed to enlist the cooperation of the people to combat terrorism and to accelerate the pace of development in the State A State level monitoring committee representing all the major political parties and shades of opinion in the State has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Governor of Punjab to review the setting up and functioning of these committees

The Government has made sincere efforts to implement the Punjab Accord.

Accident rate in coal mines

1657 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN·

SHRI K. MOHANAN·

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the death rate per thousand employees in coal mines has remained almost constant during the last several years being 0 32 in 1980 and 0 38 in 1986;

(b) if so, what purpose the various mine safety drives have served, and

(c) who are to blame for this dismal situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Although there has been a slight increase in the death rate per thousand workers employed in Coal mines from 0 32 in 1980 to 0 39 in 1986, the death rate per million tonnes of coal raised has declined from 1 43 in 1980 to 1 25 in 1986 The Director General of Mines Safety and his officers enforce the statutory provisions in respect of mines safety. Mines are periodically inspected by the officers of the Directorate General